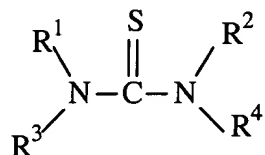


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

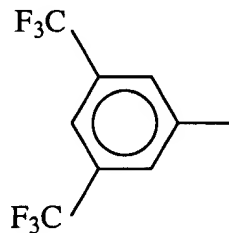
LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A substituted thiourea having the general formula



wherein R¹ comprises an alkyl, alkaryl or aryl group or a substituted derivative thereof, and contains at least one fluorine atom, R² is –CH₂–CF₂–CF₂–CF₃, and each of R³ and R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkaryl, aryl, substituted derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl, and fluorine-containing derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl.

2. (original): A thiourea according to Claim 1 wherein R¹ is



3. (canceled).

4. (canceled).

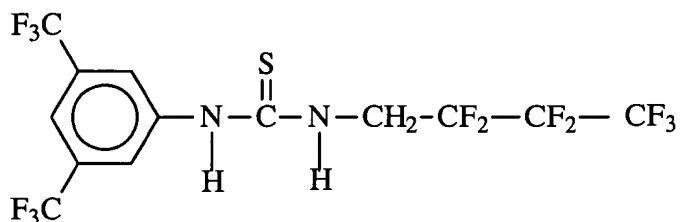
5. (canceled).

6. (canceled).

7. (original): A thiourea according to Claim 1 wherein R^3 is H.

8. (original): A thiourea according to Claim 1 wherein R^4 is H.

9. (original): A thiourea according to Claim 2 wherein the substituted thiourea is of the formula



10. (canceled).

11. (canceled).

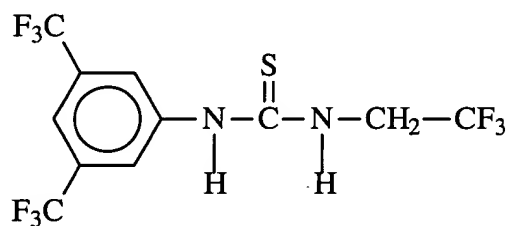
12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): A method according to Claim 19 wherein the noble metal is gold, platinum, silver, palladium or rhodium.

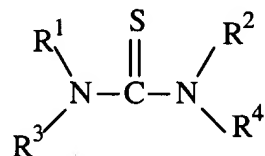
- $$\begin{array}{c} \text{R}^1 \quad \text{S} \quad \text{R}^2 \\ \diagdown \quad \parallel \quad \diagup \\ \text{N} - \text{C} - \text{N} \\ \diagup \quad \quad \diagdown \\ \text{R}^3 \quad \quad \text{R}^4 \end{array}$$

wherein R^1 and R^2 independently comprise an alkyl, alkaryl or aryl group or a substituted derivative thereof, and contain at least one fluorine atom, and each of R^3 and R^4 is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkaryl, aryl, substituted derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl, and fluorine-containing derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl, and subjecting the thus treated matrix to supercritical fluid extraction.

20. (previously presented): A substituted thiourea having the general formula



21. (currently amended) ~~Use of a substituted thiourea in the extraction of~~ A method of extracting gold, platinum, silver, palladium or rhodium from a matrix comprising:
treating the matrix with ~~the~~ a substituted thiourea, and
subjecting the ~~thus~~ treated matrix to supercritical fluid extraction, wherein the substituted thiourea ~~having~~ has the general formula



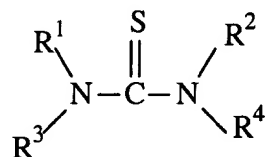
wherein R^1 and R^2 independently comprise an alkyl, alkaryl or aryl group or a substituted derivative thereof, and contain at least one fluorine atom, and each of R^3 and R^4 is selected from

the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkaryl, aryl, substituted derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl, and fluorine-containing derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl.

22. (currently amended) ~~Use of a substituted thiourea in supercritical carbon dioxide in the~~ A method of solubilising and carrying of noble metals for deposition or impregnation thereof, comprising:

treating the matrix with a substituted thiourea, and

subjecting the treated matrix to supercritical fluid extraction, wherein the substituted thiourea ~~having~~ has the general formula



wherein R¹ and R² independently comprise an alkyl, alkaryl or aryl group or a substituted derivative thereof, and contain at least one fluorine atom, and each of R³ and R⁴ is selected from the group consisting of H, alkyl, alkaryl, aryl, substituted derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl, and fluorine-containing derivatives of H, alkyl, alkaryl or aryl.